

4. Twenty-six species of foraminifera, chiefly of arenaceous types, are described, nine of which are new forms, viz.: *Haplophragmium rheticum*, *Ammodiscus auriculus*, *A. fusiformis*, *Nodosinella wedmoriensis*, *Stacheia intermedia*, *S. triradiata*, *S. dispansa*, *S. cuspidata*, and *Truncatulina stelligera*.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

*A Query as to the Synonymy of Rhysota Armiti, Smith.*

By C. HEDLEY, F.L.S.

THOSE who have had occasion to deal with the revision of species, either fauna by fauna or region by region, have observed that when an author has described a species without figuring it succeeding writers on the same subject have frequently renamed such species, but that when the first reporter also gave a figure of his species such usually escaped the infliction of synonymy. Thus Gray first received several common New-Zealand land-shells and gave unfigured descriptions of them; Gould and Pfeiffer succeeded him in the study of this fauna, and gave several of his species new names. Again, Brazier was the first to name, without illustrations, several common Papuan forms; but Tapparone Canefri, who wrote later on a collection from the identical localities, so failed to understand his predecessor that he renamed most of them. It was once remarked by Dr. P. P. Carpenter that, "with the best desires for accuracy and the greatest care, it is hardly possible for an author to so describe that his readers shall see shells as he sees them."

These reflections are suggested by a perusal of Mr. E. A. Smith's article "Descriptions of new Species of Land-Shells from New Guinea" (A. & M. N. H. 1895, xv. pp. 230-233), and especially a description therein contained of *Rhysota Armiti*, sp. n. As I have endeavoured to show, no positive identification can be made from any mere description, even from one as good as Mr. Smith's invariably are. With this reservation, I should conclude that examples of my *R. flyensis* (P. L. S. N. S. W. (2) vi. p. 71) stood for this literary portrait—because, firstly, I have received from Capt. Armit and recorded (*op. cit.* (ix.) p. 390) from Mount Maneao (not Maneau, as Mr. Smith writes) specimens of *R. flyensis*; secondly, because size alone, a variable feature in this genus, appears the only written discrepancy in the descriptions of each; and, thirdly, Mr. Smith seems in comparing *Armiti* with *hercules* to be unaware of the existence of *flyensis*.

*The Breeding-habits of the Crayfish.* By E. A. ANDREWS.

The breeding-habits of the European crayfish, *Astacus*, have been studied and recorded; but nothing is known of the processes of conjugation in the American species.

A study of *Cambarus affinis* kept in confinement shows that conjugation takes place in the autumn and in the spring, and that it differs in important respects from what is known in *Astacus*.

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